United Nations A/57/650

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 113

Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 20th, 21st and 37th meetings, on 4 and 5 November and 13 December 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.20, 21 and 37).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: programmes 1, Political affairs; 2, Disarmament; 3, Peacekeeping operations; 5, Legal affairs; 7, Economic and social affairs; 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development; 9, Trade and development; 10, Environment; 11, Human settlements; 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice; 13, International drug control; 14, Economic development in Africa; 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; 16, Economic development in Europe; 17, Economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean; 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia; 19, Human rights; 24, Management and central support services; 25, Internal oversight; 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (A/57/6 (programmes 1 and Corr.1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and Corr.1, 19 and 24-26));

02-74335 (E) 171202

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-second session;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/57/62);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/57/68);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the applicability of Regulation 4.13 and Rule 104.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of !mplementation and the Methods of Evaluation with regard to the revisions to the list of legislative mandates in programme 1 (Political affairs) (A/C.5/57/12);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on a new subprogramme on financing for development and revisions to relevant subprogrammes under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/C.5/57/19);

(g) Letter dated 15 October 2002 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/57/17);

(h) Letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee concerning revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005 (A/C.5/57/20).

4. At the 20th meeting, on 4 November 2002, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.5/57/SR.20).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.31

5. At its 37th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/57/L.31), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Ethiopia, Rapporteur of the Committee.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.31 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and 56/253 of 24 December 2001,

Having examined the proposed revisions submitted by the Secretary-General[2] concerning the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[3]

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-second session,[4]

Having also considered the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[5] the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001,[6] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives[7] and the note by the Secretariat on a new subprogramme on financing for development and revisions to relevant subprogrammes under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[8]

Having further considered the letter dated 15 October 2002 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee[9] and the letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee,[10]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

3. *Requests* the Committee to continue to observe its methods of governing the drafting and format of its reports;

4. *Encourages* the Committee to continue its discussions on improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness and continued relevance;

---

[2] A/57/6 (Prog.1 and Corr.1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and Corr.1, 8-19 and 24-26).
[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).
[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).
[5] A/C.5/57/12.
[6] A/57/62.
[7] See A/57/68.
[8] A/C.5/57/19.
[9] A/C.5/57/17.
[10] A/C.5/57/20.

I

Revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

1. *Reaffirms* that the medium-term plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that it shall serve as the framework for the next biennial programme budget;

2. *Reaffirms* regulations 4.2, 4.13 and 5.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[11] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with them;

3. *Adopts* the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 submitted by the Secretary-General,[2] as amended by the relevant recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination,[4] and the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 2002/39 of 25 October 2002;

4. *Notes* the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[12] that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the review by the Assembly at its current session of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[13] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[14] and requests the Secretary-General to submit those proposals through the Committee at its forty-third session for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

5. *Also notes* the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[15] that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the final review and appraisal by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and any other relevant legislative mandates, and requests the Secretary-General to submit those revisions through the Committee at its forty-third session for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind that the lack of time precludes further revisions to the medium-term plan at the present session, to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for programmes 7 and 8 of the medium-term plan in line with the recommendations of Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session and other relevant legislative mandates;

---

[11] ST/SGB/2000/8.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 107-108.

[13] See the *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[14] See the *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1).

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), para. 117.

II
Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001;[6]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[16] regarding the report of the Secretary-General;

III
Evaluation

1. *Stresses* the importance and necessity of further improving evaluation and integrating it into the cycle of programme planning, budgeting and monitoring with a view to improving and strengthening programme formulation and implementation;

2. *Approves* the following schedule of in-depth evaluations to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions respectively: (a) law of the sea and ocean affairs; (b) public administration, finance and development; and (c) human settlements;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing relevant recommendations on evaluation;

4. *Reiterates* its view that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly should include in their programmes of work a review of recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work and take appropriate action;

5. *Regrets* that the relevant intergovernmental bodies did not review the recommendations on evaluation of the Committee;

6. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies to effectively review the relevant recommendations on evaluation to facilitate their consideration by the Fifth Committee;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[17] on the in-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Council support and coordination,[18] on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs,[19] on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme[20] and on the triennial review of the implementation of the

[16] Ibid., paras. 56-61.
[17] Ibid., paras. 253-259.
[18] Ibid., paras. 271-274.
[19] Ibid., paras. 289-290.
[20] Ibid., paras. 297-298.

recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the electoral assistance programme;[21]

IV
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[22] regarding the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening the investigations functions in United Nations system organizations";[23]

2. *Notes* the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit that executive heads of organizations should ensure that managers involved in investigations have sufficient training in the use of established standards and procedures for conducting investigations,[24] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations programme managers implicated in incidents, crimes or irregularities leading to investigations are not involved, in any way, in conducting those investigations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the practice of involving United Nations programme managers in investigative processes so as to ensure their independence in administrative and managerial functions and to establish proper guidelines that take into consideration the practice of internal control, and to report thereon to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-eighth session;

V
Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[25] regarding the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2001,[26] and its conclusions and recommendations[27] regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa in the context of the final evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;[28]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee at its forty-third session on the future engagement of the United Nations system with the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

---

[21] Ibid., paras. 305-306.
[22] Ibid., paras. 356-357.
[23] See A/56/282.
[24] Ibid., recommendation 2.
[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 316-323.
[26] E/2002/55.
[27] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 334-338.
[28] E/AC.51/2002/8.

3. *Stresses* that inter-agency coordination in the field of management should be further strengthened, and recommends that progress made in that regard be reflected in future reports of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.